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"Our State Constitutions" have recently shown the value of exposition of this sort. Mr. Dodd's work is a similar study but in a narrower field and even more exhaustively worked out—in fact the work has a character almost encyclopedic and any review therefore fails to show the development of the subject matter.

The material falls into three parts: first, constitutional conventions. The experience of the twelve states adopting new constitutions between 1776-83 is reviewed. Even in this early period it is shown there was a tendency to differentiate between constitutions and statutes, a development which has been accentuated in our subsequent practice. This section closes with a discussion of the legal position of the constitutional convention in which the author leans toward the view that the legislature cannot bind the constitutional convention as to the scope of the revision of the old constitution which it is to undertake.

The second division, including more than half the book is an exhaustive discussion of the methods of amending constitutions by conventions and legislative action. It is brought out that the present tendency is strongly in favor of more flexible fundamental laws. The difficulties of putting the amendment before the people for adoption, how the fact of adoption is determined, the attitude of the courts toward new constitutional amendments, the overruling of courts by this means and questions of similar nature are thoroughly treated. The last chapter is devoted to a discussion of the working of the constitutional referendum, in which the facts bring out the seriousness of the objections that can be made to its use.

Mr. Dodd's book is not one for popular reading. It is essentially a reference work. Students will find it invaluable as a ready means of checking up on our constitutional practice.

CHESTER LLOYD JONES.

University of Wisconsin.

Grainear, Jean. *Les Actions De Travail.* Pp. xvi, 357. Price, 7 fr. Paris: Librairie du Recueil Sirey, 1910.

This book begins with a short appreciatory preface, written by the eminent French economist, Professor Charles Gide, and deals with the most vexing problem of the participation by labor in the gains of industry. Accordingly a variety of methods of gain-sharing is presented and discussed. The first method of profit-sharing described is based upon the selection by employers of such employees to share in the profits of industry as meet certain requirements as to wages and position. A number of interesting illustrations are taken from both European and American sources, including the Bon Marché of Paris and the United States Steel Corporation. The working plan of the latter is very minutely outlined.

The author discusses the rights and duties of the share-holding laborer, methods of adjustment in the case of the death of laborers contributing toward the purchase of shares, voting powers of the workingman shareholder, the alienability of acquired shares and other pertinent questions. In

connection with some of these problems the profit-sharing plan of the South Metropolitan Gas Company of London receives considerable attention. These systems of co-partnership, the author conceives, will produce some very satisfactory results, in part at least, because of two motives which underlie the development of methods of profit sharing—the desire to lessen the tension of the conflict between capital and labor, and the hope of breaking ground for some form of co-operative production. On the other hand, profit sharing is often nothing more than a concession to the clamor of labor.

Co-operative production—aggressive action by laborers to divide the returns of industry among themselves—is discussed from various points of view. The economic validity of such enterprises is reviewed and their legal aspects also receive attention.

The review and criticism of the methods of profit and gain-sharing form an important part of the book. What benefits really accrue to labor? What are the inherent limitations of share holding? What of the future? These questions do not shatter the optimism of the writer of this book, who is very hopeful of the ultimate solution of the conflict between capital and labor. He welcomes experiments in the direction of the principles outlined and holds that the participation of the workingman in the profits of industry will go far toward allaying suspicions against capital and bringing about industrial peace.

GEORGE B. MANGOLD.

St. Louis, Mo.

Holcombe, A. N. *Public Ownership of Telephones on the Continent of Europe.* Pp. xx, 482. Price, \$2.00. Boston: Houghton, Mifflin Company, 1911.

This work is Volume 6 of the Harvard Economic Studies and is the result of an investigation begun "In the hope that a knowledge of European experience with telephones might aid in the solution of the public problem which the American community must face. . . ." It "has not been written to prove that any one mode of conducting the telephone business is the best for all countries and under all circumstances,"—but "to set forth without prejudice the results of European experience in the conduct of the business." With such modesty is introduced one of the most thorough and painstaking industrial studies that have appeared for many a day. For a work of such unusually high calibre, appreciation is the truer line.

Paradoxically enough, it is not only a very exhaustive, but also a most readable, survey of the very efficient and highly organized governmental telephone monopolies in Germany and Switzerland and of the less-efficiently organized public monopoly in France; together with the public systems of Italy, Austria, Hungary, Holland and Belgium. The public and private systems of Spain, Denmark, and the Scandinavian peninsula are also included. (Great Britain has been treated in a separate monograph by this same writer.)

The greater part of the work is naturally taken up with the service monopoly in Germany, Switzerland and France. The gradual development of